

COUNTRY Poland

TOPIC Biedrusko Troop Training Grounds

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EVALUATION 25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT August 1950

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REFERENCES

25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS An evaluation of this report is requested from Army.

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1. The perimeter of the Polish troop training grounds at Biedrusko ran near Suchy Las (P 53/X 26), Glinno (P 53/X 27), extended as far as the eastern edge of Chludowo (P 53/X 17), ran near Maniewo (P 53/X 16), continued northwards across the Warthe River as far as the edge of the woods south of Uchorowo (P 53/X 28), ran near Bialezyn (P 53/X 26), Msciszewo (P 53/X 26), west of the Bolechowo (P 53/X 27) railroad station and Owinska (P 53/X 27) and included the towns of Nw. Kies (P 53/X 27) and Morasko (P 53/X 27). (1)
2. A wooden bridge across the Warthe River, over which ran the road to the Bolechowo freight station, lay east of Biedrusko. Two three-story brick buildings were west of the bridge on the north side of the road. A large troop camp of wooden barracks was located farther to the west on both sides of the road. No other military billets were known in the area of the training grounds. The prominent church of the village of Chojnica still stood in the training area. After World War II, some of the dwellings at the training grounds had been disassembled and shipped away.
3. Troops who practiced at the training grounds were unloaded at the Bolechowo and Poznan railroad stations. Polish tank, infantry, and artillery units were observed practicing. Training activity was suspended during the winter of 1949/1950 and resumed in the spring of 1950. Tank troops from Poznan conducted exercises in April 1950. Units of various branches of service, some of which came from fairly remote posts, were rotated at the training grounds from May to August 1950.
4. A tank unit from Poznan practiced regularly at the training grounds. Another tank unit, which according to its soldiers had come from Silesia, had been stationed in the area for some weeks in the summer of 1950. This tank unit was equipped with not less than 25 tanks. It was not observed holding joint field exercises with other branches of service. The troops wore coveralls without insignia. (2)
5. Various artillery units were at the troop training grounds in the fall of 1949 and the summer of 1950. According to its personnel, one of the artillery units came from Rawicz (P 52/C 37). Two types of artillery pieces were observed with the units practicing there. The first type was a heavy gun of about 150-mm, having a split-trail carriage, solid disk wheels with pneumatic tires, no muzzle brake, and a shield, the upper portion of which extended at the sides beyond the wheels. The gun was moved by caterpillar tractor, allegedly broken down into two loads.

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Nine guns of this type were observed in one day. (3) The second type was a long-barreled gun of about 100-mm without muzzle brake, mounted on a split-trail carriage with solid ~~USA~~ wheels with pneumatic tires and a shield to protect a man standing upright. The guns were moved by motor vehicle. Not more than 12 or 13 guns were observed at one time. (4) Record service practice, including occasional night firing, was held by the artillery units. The artillery units were not observed to practice jointly with infantry units.

6. Infantry units were at the training grounds in the fall of 1949 and from the spring to the fall of 1950. Most of them were accommodated in the troop camp near the town of Biedrusko. [redacted] unit came from Chodziez (P 53/S 12). Most of the infantrymen were armed with submachine guns, either Soviet models with wooden stock and drum magazine, or a model having a slightly curved clip magazine. Relatively few of the infantrymen carried rifles. The infantrymen were equipped with small spades, assault packs with mess gear, tenting equipment, and steel helmets. Eight machine guns carried across the chest were also observed.

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7. Besides regular infantry units, motorized infantry units with American three-axle Studebaker trucks were observed. At one time, [redacted] a unit of about 13 trucks, each occupied by an average of 20 soldiers. The motorized infantry units were sometimes observed on road marches outside the area of the training grounds. The infantry units were not observed practicing jointly with troops of other branches of service. From October 1949 to August 1950, no Soviet troops were observed at the training grounds. (5)

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[redacted] Comments.

(1) The information on the extent of the training grounds supplements previous reports. [redacted] and [redacted] 25X1A

(2) The tank unit from Roznjan probably was the 3d or 5th Tank Regt and the tank officer candidate school which were previously reported to be located in the barracks installation in Solacz. [redacted] and [redacted] The tank unit from Silesia may have been the 6th Tank Regt in [redacted]

(3) The pneumatic tires are indicative of a Soviet gun, inasmuch as German guns usually had solid tires. The gun described may have been a Soviet 122-mm model 1938 field howitzer, which, however, is not disassembled for road movement. Only Soviet guns of the heaviest types are moved in two loads. The gun may also have been the Soviet 152-mm model 1938 field howitzer whose prominent recognition feature, however, is twin tires.

(4) Except for the 100-mm model 1944 AT guns, the Soviet artillery has no 100-mm gun. The gun probably was the light 76.2-mm model 1939 field gun which is also used as motorized light artillery.

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(5) [redacted] no Soviet troops were at the Biedrusko troop training grounds. [redacted] however, the statement is contradictory to another previous report. [redacted]

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